

NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

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AUGUST 19, 1995

A SINGLE TRACE OF IOSEPA

BY BOB CAMPBELL

Amidst the windblown scrub of Utah's Skull Valley, 20 miles south of the Great Salt Lake, lies a cemetery, a few foundations, and a solitary fire hydrant which stands as a silent sentinel testifying to a long-forgotten time. These are the only remnants of a once proud society of lesser known Mormon pioneers of the Hawaiian Kanaka tribe who left the islands in 1889 to be nearer to the spiritual homeland and temple of the Latter Day Saint faithful in Salt Lake City. With church assistance in the form of agricultural expertise, financial management and property acquisition, the Hawaiian settlers were relocated to the only block of land which remained unencumbered close to the city and large enough to meet the needs of a subsistence agricultural economy. Unfortunately, it still remained approximately two days ride from Salt Lake City.

The religious faith sustaining the settlers must have rivaled any found in their more famous Latter Day Saint brethren in Salt Lake City as the new inhabitants of the fledgling town of Iosepa (Yo-see-pa) had recently left the relative paradise of Hawaii. They were greeted in Utah by life threatening elements and physical hardships. A new work ethic was needed to survive and later thrive in elements which varied from searing and unending heat in summer to semi-Arctic winters which must have seemed interminable. The settlers built their lives around what they could raise in crops and livestock from the alkali flats and cedar plateaus surrounding the town.

The LDS Church regulated the financial affairs of the town of Iosepa, so named in honor of the prophet



Joseph F. Smith. They incorporated the Iosepa Agricultural and Stock Company, headquartered in a small general store in the middle of the 1280 acre ranch. In order to facilitate commerce, a small run of script notes bearing denominations of five cents, ten cents, twenty five cents, fifty cents and one dollar were produced by a Salt Lake City printing company. This script was used to pay colonists for their work and was subsequently traded by them to pay for goods and services at the store. In the rare occurrence that a settler needed to shop in Salt Lake City, the store would exchange cash for the script. As the corporation began to turn a profit in later years, cash displaced script in the economy.

The Iosepa fifty cent note is the sole survivor, a single traveling trace of Iosepa and the commerce of that desolate spot. Signed by John T. Caine, treasurer of the cooperative, and past editor of the Salt Lake Herald and Henry P. Richards, its president, the note exhibits characteristic wear of late 19th century paper, yet it is in surprisingly good condition when one considers the rigors it has been subjected to. Caine had served an LDS mission to Hawaii in 1855 and after his tenure in Iosepa went on to be elected as a United States Representative while Richards played a major role in bringing Polynesian converts and their culture to the Salt Lake Valley.

Iosepa grew in spite of many trials, including the well-publicized cases of leprosy which struck 3 of the colonists in 1893. In order to contain the potential

Continued on col 1; pg 2 Iosepa

IOSEPA Continued from pg 1.

spread of this volatile disease, a house of isolation was built on the outskirts of town. To attract attention for the delivery of food and water, a flag was run up a pole as a signal. The town reached a maximum population of 228 late in the 19th century. It became an amalgamation of Polynesian and western culture, with poi, island delicacies, and Latter Day Saint influences routinely mixing at public festivals. However, the continued hard lifestyle began to take its toll as the growth in the cemetery began to outstrip growth in the town. Many second generation Hawaiians simply decided to leave Iosepa for more lucrative careers outside of the community. The town's death knell sounded when the construction of a new Latter Day Saint temple was announced in Hawaii. At first, a few settlers left to help in the building of the temple but a wholesale exodus followed in 1916-17. The motivation for living in the suffering climate of Utah was removed as members of the faith could now practice their religion fully in their own homeland, where it required substantially less consistent effort just to remain alive. The demise of the town occurred just 4 years after Iosepa was honored as the "Most Progressive Town in Utah" and it was finally taken over by the Deseret Livestock Company in 1917.

Visitors to the site in current times are no doubt greeted by the same skyline and landscape that threatened the dedicated and hardy Hawaiians in 1889. Little has changed. A small cemetery, some stone and shards of glass remain, along with a unique piece of paper with a quaint motto, redeemable for "an assortment of farm products at retail prices".

The Iosepa script note, a solitary specimen of a period of dynamic Utah history, continues today as the only artifact extant not subject to the wind,



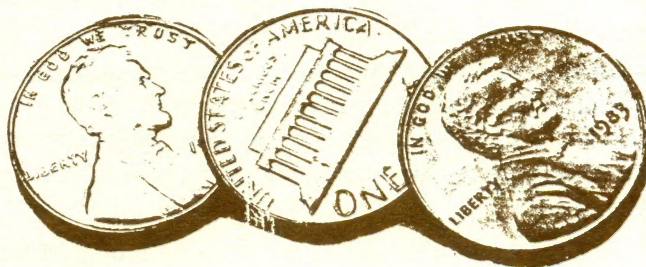
stinging sand, and drying sun of the Skull Valley area. In time, this small symbol may be all that exists to remind future historians of a little known town, fading to oblivion, that once was Iosepa.

The Effect of Corrosion on Lincoln Cents

A JUNIOR SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT

BY CHRISTINE IZUO

This experiment for the Science Fair was carried out to see what makes Lincoln cents corrode. My hypothesis was that salt water would make Lincoln cents corrode faster than tap water. I let 30 new coins soak in salt water and 30 coins soak in tap water. Then I also had 30 coins sprayed with salt water three times daily and 30 with tap water. My control was 30 coins being left out in the open air. I observed these coins every night for 10 days. By the second day, all of the coins corroded very slightly in various ways. I concluded that my hypothesis was correct. The salt water coins corroded much more than the tap water coins and the coins sprayed with salt water corroded the most. The results were quite evident by the tenth day.





Speaking of Pictures

Founder of HCC (1955), Capt. Charles J. Laskowski, (USMC), as he appeared in a 1959 photo. He has retired from the U.S.M.C. and is currently living in Lawrence, Kansas, "Land of Toto".

NEWS FLASH

We just received word that Helen Carmody was re-elected to the Board of Governors of American Numismatic Association. Helen was also the top vote getter. Details to follow in the next issue.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank Mr. James Hamasaki of Hamasaki Construction for the gift of two new dollies. Labor and material for the manufacture of these dollies were provided through the kindness of Mr. Hamasaki. These dollies are used to carry our Allstate cases at various shows. Mahalo!

Gulick Delicatessen, located in Kalihi, provided the food at our last Christmas party. We want to thank them for the best deal in town. Stop by and say hello to Roy. Let him know that you are from the Honolulu Coin Club.

Birds of Hawaii

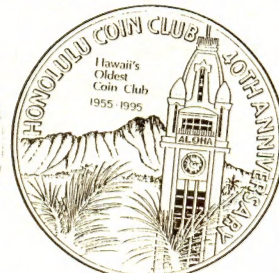
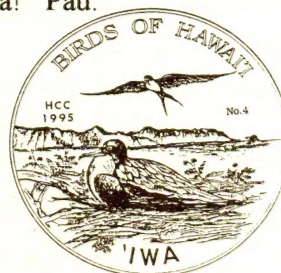
NUMBER 4

BY IRVING KAM

Whoever coined the phrase, "My, how time flies", never fully realized just how much truth was contained in such a terse dissertation. Not only has the majority of the present year already elapsed, but we also bear witness as the Honolulu Coin Club completes it's fourth decade of existence. And still, it is time again for the latest increment to the very popular Birds of Hawaii series of medals. Designed by club treasurer, Charlie Matsuda, issue number four features the exceedingly graceful 'Iwa or Great Frigate Bird. The obverse depicts a roosting pair with one incubating a single white egg as it's mate displays a seven foot plus wingspread in full flight. The 'Iwa is distinguishable by it's angular pointed wings and deeply forked tail which may be closed or opened while flying. These dark colored sea birds often soar for hours without flapping a feathered limb and in fact are often observed getting airborne by just spreading it's wings into the wind. Interestingly, their plumage is not waterproof and is said to have twenty-five percent more flight feathers and forty percent more wing area than any other sea bird of comparable weight. The medal's reverse shows the club's logo with an added proclamation of it's "40th anniversary" and the dual dates of "1955-1995".

Total mintage is limited to no more than 215 sets with the silver piece containing an ounce of .999 fine silver. The pair of 39 mm medals are packaged in an attractively illustrated insert and matching envelope. They will be available at the annual Statehood Day Coin Show in mid-August as well as through the mail. Sales via the postal system is \$28.00 postpaid and all orders may be directed to: Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, HI 96818.

Aloha! Pau.





COLLECTING WORLD CROWNS

BY WALT SOUTHWARD

Collecting crowns is an exciting and enjoyable way to expand your collecting horizons into an area that is reasonably priced, enjoyable and educational.

By standard collecting definition, crowns are coins that are:

- *---35 millimeters (about the size of an American Silver Dollar) or larger in size.
- *---Used as legal tender in the country of origination.
- *---Usually of silver composition.

Crowns normally weigh about 20 to 30 grams and some are as large as 50 millimeters in size.

In recent years, the term "crown" has also been expanded to include nickel-alloy coins of silver dollar size, and some countries have issued crowns that weren't silver.

In the formative efforts of a crown collection, many coins will cost less than 10 dollars. It is presently very easy to find silver crowns of many countries for less than 10 dollars today.

Once your collection becomes more advanced however, it becomes more and more difficult to find crowns, especially those from countries that do not have high mintages.

Hawaii has only one crown, the 1883 Hawaiian silver dollar. Another island with close ties to the United States, Puerto Rico, minted silver dollar-sized coins in only one year, 1895, and that crown is very difficult to find.

In other areas, such as Germany, France, Mexico, Great Britain, China and South America, crowns are easy to find and very attractive in a collection.

In recent years, a number of countries have been minting "collector coins," those which are legal tender in the country of origin, but which don't actually circulate there.

Unfortunately, to have a complete crown collection, it's probably necessary to include "collector coins," but I personally don't get as much of a thrill out of a coin that obviously was struck just for sale in the numismatic world as I do when I look at an 1811 ruble that actually circulated in Russia, or a 1915 peso that was used in Cuba.

Crowns provide new challenges for the collector, and the rewarding experience of finding coins from countries that aren't presently represented in a coin collection.

An added reward for the crown collector is the opportunity to learn more about the history and geography of the countries.

Many countries no longer exist, but have a rich history of coin mintage, which makes it challenging and interesting for the collector trying to determine which coins aren't represented in a collection.

I remember one year when I put together a crown exhibit for a Big Island Coin Club coin show, the struggle I had in finding the location of all the countries represented in my crown collection.

Many of the countries had changed names, or were no longer in existence, and I wanted to indicate on a map where each crown came from. I thought I had a pretty good knowledge of geography until I tried to place all of those countries!

I started crown collecting in the mid-1960's, when the Big Island Coin Club held an auction of a collection of coins that had been left as security with a local bank by a coin dealer who borrowed money to buy more coins to set up a coin shop here.

The dealer never returned from his coin buying trip, and the club put together an auction, with a

Continued on pg 5; col 1; World Crown

World Crowns

Continued from pg 4.

number of nice crowns among the pieces in the auction.

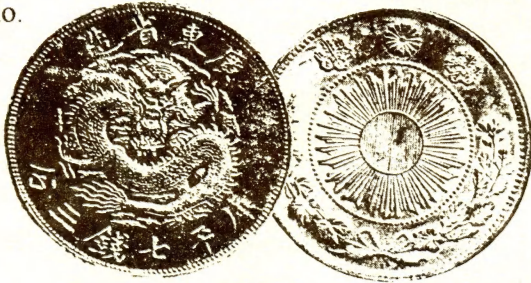
I was fortunate enough to get some of them and that inspired me to get heavily into crown collecting.

You don't need to collect crowns to have the same collecting thrill that I have from various countires.

I remember a very vivid display of coins at an early coin show here of "Pennies of the World". It was very artistically done and won a prize in the show.

And you can be sure that there are a lot more counties that have minted pennies than there are countries that have minted crowns!

Walt Southward, charter president and currently corresponding secretary of the Big Island Coin Club in Hilo, has been collecting coins since the early 1950's. He holds life membership #1052 in the American Numismatic Association and, when he isn't searching for crowns in dealers' shops, has a public relations consulting company in Hilo.



OOPS, WE GOOTED

In our story of our HSNA show highlights in November 1994, we failed to recognize the other exhibitors who made a display. Bill Comerford on Commemorative coins "Portrayals of Ships"; Charlie Matsuda, on Commemorative coins and items on the "Texas Centennial"; Francis Loo, on the (1883) Hawaiian quarter dollars; Crane Saito on Phillippine Guerilla notes and scrips; W.K. Young, on sequential \$1.00 currency; and Dennis Tomiyaso on Tokens used by the U.S. troops in Japan.

Our apologies for omitting your names.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COIN CLUBS OF HAWAII

BIG ISLAND COIN CLUB

January 1995 - Tom Davidson made a presentation on commemorative coins, his personal interest area. He had some interesting samples for "show and tell".

BICC has nominated and will support Helen Carmody for another term on the ANA Board of Directors. The club also took action to decline to endorse any candidate who is not personally known to a BICC member or who has not attended a BICC meeting.

Derrick Ah Sing is serving as overall show chairman and Walt Southward as bourse chairman for their show on Sunday, May 7th at the Sun Sun Lau restaurant in Hilo.

February 1995 - Mercury dimes was the topic of the program given by Walt Southward. He stated that many Mercury (Winged Liberty) dimes are available for less than \$10 and that only one coin, the key 1916-D, cost more than \$100.

March 1995 - Congratulations to BICC VP Hunter Bishop, whose work with the Big Island Press Club's newsmaker Monday program won for him the club's "Project of the Year" award. 29 members and guests were present when attorneys George Davis and Joy Hutson talked about estate planning for the coin collector. The program was one of the most interesting and members (present) received hundred of dollars of legal advice at the meeting. George is an active member of the BICC.

Plans are moving ahead for the BICC coin show scheduled for May 7, 1995 at the Sun Sun Lau restaurant in Hilo.

April 1995 - Welcome to Marta Bowman who has "re-enlisted" her membership. She is now living and working in Waimea. Two old time members, Jim Moore and George Paiva, talked about their collecting experiences. Jim talked about his days as a foreign coin dealer in Europe in the 1960's when he was in the military and

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NEWS HIGHLIGHT

Continued from pg 5

George shared stories of coin dealing in Hilo in the 1960's. One of his stories, however, was saddened by the tale of a fire that destroyed his plumbing supplies and coin shop in downtown Hilo.

May 1995 - BICC had their coin show on May 7th with over 200 people in attendance at the Sun Sun Lau Restaurant. With dealers from Oahu and the Big Island, one of the highlights was a variety of exhibits of coins. Agnes Yamauchi who chaired the exhibits said Don Nigro, Rick Howsley, Greg Eliades, Walt Southward, Jerry Kodani, Agnes and Wayne Yamauchi, Harold Watanabe, Marie Shimizu, Mildred Murakami and Ginger and George Davis were the primary exhibitors. BICC wooden nickels were given away to those who attended the show and there were many door prizes.

June 1995 - The 1995-1996 officers of BICC are Derrick Ah Sing, president; Hunter Bishop, VP; Agnes Yamauchi, recording secretary; Walt Southward, corresponding secretary; Byron Toma, treasurer; Jerry Kodani, Sergeant-at-arms; Wayne Yamauchi, Don Nigro and Fred Woodby, directors; and Mildred Murakami, immediate past president. Member George Davis will be the installing officer.

Want a BICC 1995 wooden nickel? Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the BICC, P.O. Box 971, Hilo, Hawaii, 96721.

Dues for the BICC 1995-96 year are due and just \$9.00 for the year.

Two new members as a result of the show were Karen Kujubu of Hilo and Joshua John of Kauai, who traveled all the way to Hilo for the show! Welcome aboard.

Jim Simek, who attended our show revealed that he is returning to the Midwest and will be getting his mail in Westchester, Illinois. Jim made a real contribution to Hawaii numismatics.

Belated sympathy to BICC, HCC and HSNA member, Les Crawley of Oklahoma, whose wife Dorothy, passed away in March.

HONOLULU COIN CLUB

December 1994 - No club meetings were held--however our annual Christmas party was held. Over 90 members, families and guests were present to enjoy the good food, fun games and the outstanding door prizes. Thanks again to Charles Matsuda and the the HCC members who helped to make it a success.

January 1995 - Wah Kui Young and Kazuo Oyama were nominated and unanimously voted life members of the Honolulu Coin Club. This honor was bestowed upon them for their many years of service to the Honolulu Coin Club. Congratulations! Ted Ho on "Show and Tell" talked about Emergency Coinage and currency of and during World War II.

March 1995 - Medals of Hawaii was the subject of Charles Matsuda's "Show and Tell". One of our junior members, Christine Izuo, also gave a "Show and Tell" study on the "Corrosion on pennies." Welcome new members Jeff Sourwinu and Allen Nagahisa.

April 1995 - The design for the 1995 HSNA medal was shown - Niihau (last of the Island series #8). Discussion was held on the next series of HSNA medals. Gods and Goddesses of Hawaii was one suggestion. Do you have any? Preparations were being made for the May 1995 Mini Coin Show. Welcome to new member Allen Naga.

May 1995 - HSNA/HCC Mini Show was a success--with 17 dealers and over 200 in attendance at the Susannah Wesley Community Center. The Club also realized a gain of over \$400. We wish to thank the following exhibitors for their hard work in putting together an exhibit -- Charlie Matsuda, Civil War coins/currency; Crane Saito, Honolulu Coin Club 35th anniversary items; Francis Loo, Hawaii Overprint currency; the Izuo sisters, \$2.00 currency; W.K. Young, 12 Districts of \$2.00 currency with 1976 cancellation.



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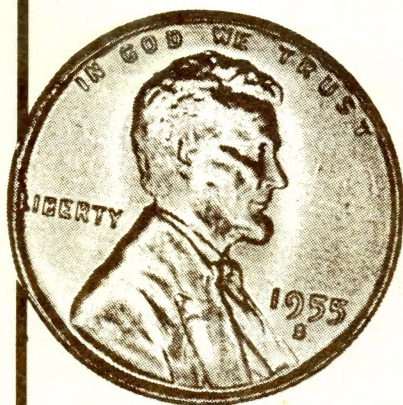
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